

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1. (Original) An endoscopic retractor instrument assembly comprising:
an insertion or deployment tube insertable through a channel of an endoscopic instrument;

a balloon or bladder having a pair of expandable or inflatable end members and at least one expandable or inflatable spacer member connecting said end members to one another, said balloon or bladder being disposed in a collapsed configuration inside said tube; and

inflation means operatively coupled with said balloon or bladder for inflating said balloon or bladder from said collapsed configuration to an expanded use configuration in which said spacer member pushes said end members apart from one another.

2. (Original) The retractor instrument assembly defined in claim 1 wherein said inflation means includes an additional tube connected to said balloon or bladder.

3. (Original) The retractor instrument assembly defined in claim 2 wherein said inflation means further includes a one-way valve disposed between said additional tube and said balloon or bladder.

4. (Original) The retractor instrument assembly defined in claim 3 wherein said valve is disposed in a nipple or nub element connected to said balloon or bladder.

5. (Original) The retractor instrument assembly defined in claim 4 wherein said additional tube is removably connected to said nipple or nub element.

6. (Original) The retractor instrument assembly defined in claim 1 wherein said inflatable end members are toroidal.

7. (Original) The retractor instrument assembly defined in claim 6 wherein said spacer member is one of a plurality of elongate expandable or inflatable spacer members each having one end connected to and communicating with one of said end members and an opposite end connected to and communicating with another one of said end members.

8. (Original) The retractor instrument assembly defined in claim 6 wherein one of said inflatable end members has a central aperture and is provided with a membrane extending across said aperture to close said aperture and prevent passage of objects through said aperture.

9. (Original) The retractor instrument assembly defined in claim 1 wherein said spacer member is one of a plurality of elongate expandable or inflatable spacer members each having one end connected to and communicating with one of said end members and an opposite end connected to and communicating with another one of said end members, said spacer members being spaced from each other to provide unobstructed access to an interior wall of an organ.

10-20. (Canceled)

21. (New) An endoscopic retractor instrument assembly comprising:
an insertion or deployment tube insertable through a channel of an endoscopic instrument;

a balloon or bladder including a pair of expandable or inflatable end members and at least one expandable or inflatable spacer member connecting said end members to one another so that said end members and said spacer member communicate with one another, said balloon or bladder being disposed in a collapsed configuration inside said tube; and

inflation means operatively coupled with said balloon or bladder for inflating said balloon or bladder from said collapsed configuration to an expanded use configuration,

at least one of said end members being formed with an aperture or opening traversable by an endoscope insertion member of the endoscopic instrument after an inflation of said balloon or bladder from said collapsed configuration to said expanded use configuration.

22. (New) The retractor instrument assembly defined in claim 20 wherein said inflation means includes an additional tube connected to said balloon or bladder.

23. (New) The retractor instrument assembly defined in claim 22 wherein said additional tube is removably connected to said nipple or nub element.

24. (New) The retractor instrument assembly defined in claim 20 wherein said spacer member is one of a plurality of elongate expandable or inflatable spacer members each having one end connected to and communicating with one of said end members and an opposite end connected to and communicating with another one of said end members.

25. (New) The retractor instrument assembly defined in claim 24 wherein said spacer members are spaced from each other to provide unobstructed access to an interior wall of an organ.

26. (New) The retractor instrument assembly defined in claim 20 wherein said inflatable end members are toroidal and said opening is circular.

27. (New) The retractor instrument assembly defined in claim 20 wherein another one of said inflatable end members has a central aperture and is provided with a membrane extending across said aperture to close said aperture and prevent passage of objects through said aperture.

28. (New) An endoscopic retractor instrument assembly comprising:
an insertion or deployment tube insertable through a channel of an endoscopic instrument;

a balloon or bladder including a pair of expandable or inflatable end members and a plurality of expandable or inflatable spacer member connecting said end members to one another so that said end members and said spacer members communicate with one another, said balloon or bladder being disposed in a collapsed configuration inside said tube; and

inflation means operatively coupled with said balloon or bladder for inflating said balloon or bladder from said collapsed configuration to an expanded use configuration, said spacer members being spaced from one another and asymmetrically disposed to provide an enlarged window or opening on one side to facilitate unobstructed access to an interior wall of an organ.